

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1289

March 15, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Automatically restores a person's right to vote upon being released from serving a period of confinement.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Under current law, a person convicted of a felony offense loses his or her right to vote in Tennessee. A person convicted of first degree murder, aggravated rape, treason, or voter fraud between July 1, 1986, and July 1, 1996, can never again be eligible to vote in Tennessee. Any person convicted of first degree murder, aggravated rape, treason, voter fraud, offenses related to bribery, offenses related to misconduct by a public official/employee, offenses related to interference with government operations, or felony sexual offenses between July 1, 1996, and July 1, 2006, can never again be eligible to vote in Tennessee.
- A person convicted of a felony, other than those for which voting rights are permanently removed, may petition for restoration of the person's voting rights after receiving a pardon, being discharged from custody after serving the maximum sentence imposed or after such sentence has expired, or being granted a certificate of final discharge from supervision by the Board of Parole.
- The proposed legislation would automatically restore all felons' voting rights after the person is discharged from confinement.
- The proposed legislation requires the Department of Correction to provide the person with a voter registration form, assist the person in completing the form, and deliver the completed form to the coordinator of elections.
- The proposed legislation requires a court, before accepting a guilty or nolo contendere plea, to inform the person of his or her loss of the right to vote as a result of the conviction and that such rights will be restored upon discharge.
- The proposed legislation requires the Secretary of State to ensure the voter database is purged of ineligible voters and add names of persons that become eligible upon discharge.
- It is assumed that the Secretary of State already purges names from and adds names to the database as persons are convicted or have their rights restored.

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- It is assumed that the proposed legislation will not significantly impact the operations of the Secretary of State.
- The Department of Correction and the Administrative Office of the Courts report that the proposed legislation will not significantly impact their operations.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/trm